



Eston Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to the Council my Annual Report for 1923.

During this period there occurred epidemics of Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Chicken-pox.

The Measles outbreak began in April, reached its height in June-July, and then gradually subsided, till the climax was reached at the end of August. The outstanding feature of the epidemic was the tendency to the occurrence of complicating Broncho-pneumonia, sometimes with fatal result. The heavy case incidence in this epidemic necessitated the closing of several schools, in the public interest.

In the case of the Scarlet Fever epidemic, the noteworthy feature was the large proportion of adults who were affected. In as many cases as possible these were admitted to the Sanatorium, where the results of treatment were on the whole very satisfactory.

Two mild cases of Smallpox were notified. Both ended in complete recovery.

The spread of infectious diseases is greatly facilitated in the district by bad housing conditions, aggravated by widespread overcrowding. In addition inadequate nourishment of the children due to the widespread unemployment has an important

bearing. However, on the whole the general health of the community has been maintained at a fairly high level. Provision for the recreation of both children and adults away from the streets and back doors would do much to destroy the susceptibility of the inhabitants to microbe disease.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District (acres)	...	...	...	...	5,585
Population (1923)	...	...	...	...	32,730
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	6,161
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	—
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£214,445
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£883

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law Relief paid during the year was as follows :—

January to March, 1923. First Quarter—				£	s.	d.
	South Bank and Normanby	...	...	5,885	17	3
	Grangetown and Eston	...	...	4,001	17	4
				<hr/>		
				£9,887	14	7
				<hr/>		
April to June, 1923. Second Quarter—						
	South Bank and Normanby	...	...	£6,700	14	4
	Grangetown and Eston	...	...	4,068	2	4
				<hr/>		
				£10,768	16	8
				<hr/>		
July to September, 1923. Third Quarter—						
	South Bank and Normanby	...	...	7,156	16	0
	Grangetown and Eston	...	...	4,029	3	11
				<hr/>		
				£11,185	19	11
				<hr/>		
October to December, 1923. Fourth Quarter—						
	South Bank and Normanby	...	...	£6,537	0	10
	Grangetown and Eston	...	...	4,162	0	1
				<hr/>		
				£10,699	0	11
				<hr/>		

		£	s.	d.
Total Relief	... ..	42,541	12	1
Lunatics Removal Expenses for the year	...	108	3	10
GRAND TOTAL...		£42,649	15	11

DEATHS.

During the year 1923 there were 413 deaths registered in the District. Of these 233 were males and 180 Females, equal to a death rate of 12·6 per 1,000 population, whilst 49 deaths of Eston District persons occurred outside our area and 2 deaths of non-residents were registered in the District, thus giving a corrected rate of 14·0 per 1,000 population.

The number of deaths in 1923 show an increase of 25 on those for 1922.

81 deaths occurred under 1 year of age.

79 over 1 year and under 5 years.

17 over 5 years and under 10 years.

7 over 10 years and under 15 years.

14 over 15 years and under 25 years.

43 over 25 years and under 45 years.

80 over 45 years and under 65 years, and

92 over 65 years of age.

The main causes of death were :—Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Measles, Senile Decay, Heart Disease, Congential Debility, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Apoplexy, Premature Birth, Tubercular Meningitis, Convulsions, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Nephritis and Gastro-Enteritis.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year of age during the year was 81 (of these 70 were legitimate and 11 illegitimate), corresponding to a mortality rate of 93·8 per 1,000 nett births.

This number shows an increase of 2 deaths on the previous year.

The chief causes of death under one year of age were due to Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Measles, Convulsions, Gastro Enteritis, Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	47
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	8

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth, were :—

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
From other causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	70
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	11
TOTAL					81

Rate 93·8 per 1,000 births.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

Inquests were held respecting the deaths of 27 persons, viz. :—

Accidents	...	...	...	...	13
Sudden Deaths	...	...	...	...	10
Suicide	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL					27

Four deaths due to accidents occurred in Houses, 2 in the Street, 1 at Cleveland Steelworks, 1 at Bessemer Ironworks, 1 at Cleveland Slag Road Works, 1 at Smiths Dock, 1 at Eston Mines, 1 in River Tees, and 1 in Eston Hospital.

The chief causes of sudden death were due to Heart Affections.

BIRTHS.

During the year 1923 there were 863 births registered in the District. Of these 442 were Males and 421 Females, equal to a birth rate of 26·3 per 1,000 population.

The births for 1923 show an increase of 10 on those for 1922.

Births :	TOTAL		MALES		FEMALES	
Legitimate	...	844	...	428	...	416
Illegitimate	...	19	...	14	...	5
making a birth rate of 26·3 per 1,000 population.						

STILL-BIRTHS.

During the year the bodies of 42 still-born children were buried at the Cemetery for the District, the numbers for the different quarters being—8, 14, 9 and 11.

This number shows a decrease of 9 on those for 1922.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 543 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, which shows an increase of 147 cases on the previous year.

Disease			Total Cases Notified		Rate per 1,000 population		Cases admitted to Hospital		Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	338	...	10.3	...	241	...	5
Chickenpox	...	...	177	...	5.4	...	—	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	14	...	0.4	...	—	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	6	...	0.1	...	—	...	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	4	...	0.1	...	—	...	1
Smallpox	...	...	2	...	—	...	2	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	2	...	—	...	1	...	40
Tuberculosis—									
(a) Pulmonary		...M.	31	...			M. 23	...	M. 8
		F.	31	...			F. 7	...	F. 12
			—				—		—
TOTAL		...	62	...	1.9	...	30	...	20
			—				—		—
(b) Non-Pulmonary		...M.	6	...			M. 2	...	M. 8
		F.	11	...			F. 1	...	F. 10
			—				—		—
TOTAL		...	17	...	0.5	...	3	...	18
			—				—		—

SCARLET FEVER.

Ages				Total Cases Notified		Deaths	
Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	3	...	—
Over 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	5	...	—
Over 2 years and under 3 years	...	...	...	7	...	1
Over 3 years and under 4 years	...	...	...	20	...	1
Over 4 years and under 5 years	...	...	...	54	...	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years	...	...	...	109	...	1
Over 10 years and under 15 years	...	...	...	94	...	—
Over 15 years and under 20 years	...	...	...	25	...	1
Over 20 years and under 35 years	...	...	...	20	...	1
Over 35 years and under 45 years	...	...	...	1	...	—
				—	...	—	
TOTAL				...	338	...	5
				—	...	—	

CHICKENPOX.

Ages				Total Cases Notified		Deaths
Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	9	...	—
Over 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	20	...	—
Over 2 years and under 3 years	...	...	...	23	...	—
Over 3 years and under 4 years	...	...	...	26	...	—
Over 4 years and under 5 years	...	...	...	32	...	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years	...	...	...	40	...	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years	...	...	...	26	...	—
Over 20 years and under 35 years	...	...	...	1	...	—
TOTAL				177	...	—

DIPHTHERIA.

Over 4 years and under 5 years	...	...	1	...	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years	...	...	1	...	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years	...	...	3	...	—
Over 15 years and under	...	...	1	...	—
TOTAL				6	—

ERYSIPELAS.

Over 20 years and under 25 years	...	1	...	—
Over 25 years and under 35 years	...	3	...	—
Over 35 years and under 45 years	...	2	...	—
Over 45 years and under 65 years	...	8	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL	...	14	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>

TYPHOID FEVER.

Over 30 years and under 45 years	...	1	...	1
Over 45 years and under 65 years	...	3	...	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL	...	4	...	1

SMALLPOX.

Over 45 years and under 65 years ... 2 ... —

The Smallpox cases were of a mild type, and were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year 62 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 17 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. .

This shows an increase of 25 Pulmonary cases and an increase of 8 other forms of Tuberculosis on those notified during the previous year.

There were 20 deaths caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 18 deaths by other forms of Tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Cases Notified				Deaths		
	Males		Females		Males		Females
Over 1 year and under 2 years	2	...	—	...	—	...	1
Over 2 years and under 3 years	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Over 3 years and under 4 years	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
Over 4 years and under 5 years	3	...	1	...	—	...	1
Over 5 years and under 10 years	4	...	4	...	—	...	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years	3	...	3	...	—	...	1
Over 15 years and under 20 years	3	...	6	...	—	...	1
Over 20 years and under 35 years	7	...	7	...	4	...	3
Over 35 years and under 45 years	3	...	8	...	2	...	4
Over 45 years and under 65 years	3	...	1	...	1	...	—
Over 65 years of age	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
	—		—		—		—
TOTAL ...	31	...	31	...	8	...	12
	—		—		—		—

OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Cases Notified				Deaths		
	Males		Females		Males		Females
Under 1 year of age	2	...	2	...	2	...	—
Over 1 year and under 2 years	2	...	—	...	2	...	3
Over 2 years and under 3 years	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Over 3 years and under 4 years	—	...	2	...	—	...	2

Over 4 years and under 5 years	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	
Over 5 years and under 10 years	1	...	3	...	1	...	—	
Over 10 years and under 15 years	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Over 15 years and under 20 years	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Over 20 years and under 35 years	—	...	1	...	1	...	1	
Over 45 years and under 65 years	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	
	—		—		—		—	
TOTAL	...	6	...	11	...	8	...	10

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

These cases are notified fairly well in our District, and a weekly statement is sent to the County Medical Officer ; this enables them to seek out the cases for examination and Sanatorium treatment.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

We have in this District a Child Welfare Centre, of which particulars are given elsewhere in my report.

The School Clinic is arranged by the County Council, and held in the Schools at South Bank and Grangetown.

The County Council also provides a Tuberculosis Dispensary in South Bank, the Tuberculosis Medical Officer, who acts for the County Medical Officer, attends every Thursday.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

These cases are all looked into, and the usual procedure of fumigation is carried out where necessary.

With regard to Non-notifiable Diseases to which children are specially susceptible, we make arrangements for disinfecting the Schools.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The sickness specially noteworthy in the district during the year was an attack of Measles in the early part of the year, with 47 deaths as a result. We closed most of the Infant Schools, and everything was done to try and prevent the spreading of this disease. We also had an epidemic of Scarlet Fever and Chickenpox which commenced in January and abated about the end of April, though we had a recrudence in June which carried us on until the end of the year.

Towards the close of the year we had a good many cases of Influenza, followed by Pneumonia ; the conditions pointed to an epidemic, particulars of which will be reported in the 1924 Annual Report.

SANATORIUM AND ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the past year 245 cases were treated in the Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	241
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	2
Observation Smallpox	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL					245

This shows an increase of 55 on those for the previous year.

Four deaths occurred in the Sanatorium during the year—3 attributable to Scarlet Fever and 1 to Broncho-pneumonia. All these were severe cases when admitted.

The work of the Sanatorium and Isolation Hospital was carried out by the Matron (Miss Wratten) and her Staff in a most satisfactory manner.

The Sanatorium was again taxed to its utmost limit during the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, especially in the early part of the year, and there were many cases unable to gain admission. It is very gratifying to know that with the exception of the four cases mentioned above, all were discharged cured.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

There is a Hospital which provides for medical and surgical treatment for the employees of Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co. and their dependants, with a General Consultant, Eye Specialist, Anæsthetist, and 8 Surgeons on the staff, Matron, 4 Sisters, 8 Probationers, and 10 Maids.

This Hospital is kept up by contributions from the men employed at Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan & Co.'s, and caters for 75 per cent of the people in the area.

We have also an interest in Holgate Hospital, which is run by a Committee of Guardians drawn from Middlesbrough, Eston Urban District, Thornaby and the neighbourhood.

The Eston Urban District have an Infectious Disease Hospital. This consists of four wards and the ordinary annexings, providing accommodation for 40 patients, and is situated about the centre of the area.

They have also an Isolation Hospital consisting of two wards with administrative block attached. This is situated at the foot of the Cleveland Hills, and is used for Smallpox cases.

LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements for Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made with the North Riding Laboratory at Scarborough, and a great many specimens have been dealt with during the year, each result being negative.

If there is any case in which the Coroner needs an examination of material, it is sent to the County Analyst at Leeds.

The Diphtheria Antitoxin or Vaccines are issued by the Medical Officer whenever application is made.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

These meetings are held every Monday afternoon in rooms set apart at the Council Chambers, Cleveland House, Grangetown. The Centre is worked by a Committee of Voluntary lady workers who provide light refreshments each week for the mothers at a nominal cost.

Every child coming to the Welfare Centre is examined by the Doctor and advised as to feeding and general care of the child.

The number of children registered during the first quarter was 60, the children were weighed on an average four times during the quarter, the total weighings during that period being 213.

During the second quarter the number of children admitted was 54 ; these were weighed on an average five times, the total weighings during this quarter amounting to 199.

During the third quarter there were 50 children registered who were weighed on an average five times, the total weighings amounting to 212.

During the fourth quarter 62 children were registered, the total weighings for this period amounting to 224.

The total number of children registered during the year was 226, and the total weighings 848, every child having been weighed on an average five times.

Glaxo, Milk Foods and Virol are supplied at cost price for the babies, the number of packets sold during the past year were as follows :—

			Milk Foods		Virol
First Quarter	...	...	897 packets	...	120½ lbs.
Second Quarter	...	...	833 „	...	108 „
Third Quarter	...	...	784 „	...	102½ „
Fourth Quarter	...	...	932 „	...	118¼ „
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL	...		3,446 „	...	449¼ „
			<hr/>		<hr/>

This is very satisfactory considering the times ; we would have done much better had there been less unemployment in our area.

The children on the whole are healthy and in good condition. During the year we entertained some 115 mothers to tea. Competitions were held for the babies, Dr. Mason, the County Medical Officer, acting as Judge, and the following prizes were awarded :—

First and Second Prizes for babies fed on each kind of Milk Food sold at the Welfare Centre.

First and Second Prizes for Breast Fed Babies, with two additional prizes for twins.

We had 13 lots of twins attending during the year.

Councillor Trew, Chairman of the Council, addressed the mothers in the interests of Child Welfare Centres, which was greatly appreciated.

This scheme has now reached a most satisfactory stage, and in the future should present few problems. The Voluntary workers have been of inestimable service, and have earned the gratitude of the mothers attending.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

The Nursing arrangements in the District are superintended by four School nurses provided by the County Council, who visit the houses regularly. There are also eight other nurses who have been at work for some years.

The Church of England provide two nurses who are constantly occupied in assisting throughout the District, and in helping to raise the social conditions for young females.

The Roman Catholic Church is training several nurses to assist in all that relates to the welfare of the congregation.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(A) For Infectious Disease.

There is a horse ambulance kept by the Eston Urban District Council for the removal of all Infectious cases.

(B) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

There is a motor ambulance which is run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and when necessary a detachment of the Brigade is sent with the ambulance to assist in the removal of the patients.

During the year 1923, the Ambulance attached to the Eston Division has removed 159 patients, and travelled 2,131 miles. A few of these have been accidents, but about 140 of these cases have been for operations, etc., which we have moved from their homes to the local hospitals. We have moved during the year several cases for doctors in Middlesbrough, which the Municipal Ambulances were not able to undertake. For instance, on one occasion we removed a lady to Blackpool: one also to Sheffield, and on several occasions to Newcastle.

The car is available at any hour of the day or night for any local cases of accident or invalid transport when requested by a doctor, regardless of the ability of patients or their friends to pay for same. We have received in free-will gifts from patients and friends £140, and our expenses have been £100. These expenses include beside running expenses, the painting and overhauling of the car. All the personal services involved is purely voluntary; no one ever receives a penny from the funds.

MIDWIVES.

There are 8 Midwives in the District, practising under the Authority of the County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of Medical Officer of Health (part time), Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Food Inspector, and 4 Health Visitors employed under the County Council.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(A) Total, 38.

(B) As part of a municipal housing scheme, 31.

1. Unfit dwellinghouses—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,398
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	74
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	74
2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices— Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	26
3. Action under Statutory Powers—	
A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Acts, 1919—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1,271
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners	1,060
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Acts, 1909—	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of closing orders	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made... ..	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
demolition orders were made | | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur-
suance of demolition orders | | Nil |

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Councillors and Members of the Staff who assisted me in compiling the report.

There is still a good deal of unemployment in the district ; most of the large works have been set agoing, though work is very intermittent, and it will probably be some time before there is any great improvement.

In my visits throughout the area I find there is still a good deal of overcrowding and that more houses are required. Much has already been done to alleviate matters, and further developments will doubtless take place in the near future.

I again would like to point out the pressing need of a new Infectious Disease Hospital, the present one on several occasions having been taxed to its utmost limit.

Again thanking you for the great assistance given to me in carrying out my duties.

I am,

Yours most sincerely,

JOHN STEEL,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1923.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ESTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report, dealing with the sanitary work carried out in the district during the year ending December 31st, 1923.

The year has been one of great activity, and the inspections in all branches have been thoroughly maintained. As will be seen by the tabulated statements, more repairs with respect to dwelling-houses have been effected than in previous years, and although difficulties have arisen based chiefly on arrears of rent owing, I am pleased to say that in no case was it found necessary to take legal proceedings, interviews and persuasion having the desired effect.

The scavenging and cleansing of the district has had my careful and constant supervision. The financial aspect has been carefully considered, and it should be generally known that although there was no fall in wages paid to the workmen, the costs of the scavenging and cleansing showed a gradual reduction without detriment to the efficiency.

The conversion of the whole of the pan closets into water closets in the area under Section 39 of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act), 1907, which was decided on in March, proceeded throughout the year in a satisfactory manner. The voluntary scheme for the conversion of pan closets whereby owners or occupiers could have conversions carried out at their own convenience on payment of £2 to the Council, was also very successful, although by the end of the year there were signs of the scheme working out owing to the activity of the general conversion scheme.

The chief legislation of the year was that part of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act passed the previous year, and dealt with the grading of milk, but apart from the many enquiries which have been made as to what was required, no licenses were issued.

Several houses were dealt with under the Housing and Town Planning Acts during the year, which closed with much of the work in connection with notices being pressed forward.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

With respect to nuisances upon premises, 551 yard drains and 52 water closets drains were reported as being defective or stopped, of which 483 yard drains and 42 water closets drain were unstopped without notices being served. In the majority of cases the stoppages were due to the tenants neglect, and were removed by plunging.

As in the previous year the remarkable feature of drain stoppages was the small number of water closet drain stoppages which came to my notice, especially in the South Bank area, where so many conversions have been carried out, mostly in the poorer and more thickly populated localities.

The number of nuisances dealt with during the year was 1,763, and the number of Informal Notices served in connection with these was 1,271. In many cases Informal Notices had the desired effect.

Nuisances which were not complied with after informal notices had been served were reported to the Council at the Monthly Meetings. On the instructions of the Council 157 Statutory Notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances in various forms.

Summary of the various headings under which nuisances were dealt with and notices served :—

Nature of Nuisance				Nuisances Found	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices served by order of Council	Nuisances abated at end of year
Dwelling Houses and Schools—							
Structural Defects—							
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	29	10	4	5
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	100	41	23	30
Defective Walls	...	...	...	119	64	8	56
Defective Floors	...	...	...	69	20	5	17
Defective Windows	...	...	...	41	6	1	3
Defective Fireplaces	...	...	...	21	7	1	7
Defective Plaster and Ceilings	...	...	...	29	8	4	7
Defective Doors and Doorframes	...	...	...	67	24	8	19
Defective Handrails and Staircases	...	...	...	32	3	2	3
Defective Set Pots	...	...	...	12	4	—	2
Defective Spoutings	...	...	...	86	54	9	36
Defective Downcomers	...	...	...	27	7	1	7
Insanitary and Defective Yard Pavings	.....	...	...	36	17	2	13
Insufficient accommodation for storage of food	...	...	...	11	1	—	1

House Drainage—

Insufficient and Defective Sinks or Slop-												
stones	24	...	6	...	1	...	5					
Defective Waste Pipes	23	...	2	...	—	...	2					
Yard Drains Defective and stopped	114	...	103	...	8	...	96					
Water Closet Drains Defective and Stopped	11	...	11	...	—	...	11					
Defective Water Closet Apparatus	21	...	9	...	1	...	7					
Insufficient or Defective Gullies and Grids...	46	...	38	...	10	...	37					
Animals and Fowls improperly kept	55	...	52	...	10	...	50					
Accumulations of Manure	3	...	3	...	—	...	3					
Filthy conditions of houses	15	...	13	...	—	...	12					
Insufficient accommodation for refuse	49	...	49	...	2	...	46					
Insufficient or Defective House Water Supply	3	...	3	...	—	...	3					
Defective Privy Pans and Pan Doors	711	...	708	...	57	...	574					
Conversion of Pan Closets into Water												
Closets (Sec. 39 P.H.A.A.A., 1907)	—	...	1,276	...	—	...	1,069					
Miscellaneous	10	...	8	...	—	...	8					
	1,764	...	2,547	...	157	...	2,129					

118 notices were cancelled owing to the conversion of pan closets into water closets.

COMPLAINTS.

All complaints received during the year had my immediate attention, and with the exception of drain stoppages were not numerous.

Summary of complaints received :—

Yard Drains Defective or Stopped	...	...	...	101
Water Closet Drains Defective or Stopped	...	...	...	22
Houses Requiring Repairs	...	...	...	15
Defective Privy and Refuse Pans	...	...	...	16
Defective Water Closet Apparatus	...	...	...	4
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	4
Filthy Conditions	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of Refuse	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4
TOTAL	...	...	...	171

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

(INSPECTION OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS, 1910).

Under the above Regulations, 74 houses which were not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation, but could be made fit, were dealt with. In all cases the defects could be remedied without displacing the tenants.

At the close of the year 26 houses had been thoroughly repaired and overhauled. At 30 houses repairs were in progress, and negotiations were proceeding for the work to be carried out in the remaining 18 houses.

In nearly all cases the drains had to be relaid as well as yard pavings and floors. No serious difficulties were experienced to get the work done, although many owners complained of the difficulty in connection with the collection of the rents.

I am pleased to say that it was not found necessary to ask the Council to exercise their powers under the Act in connection with any of the houses which were dealt with.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The question of obtaining a loan to carry out the conversion of the pan closets into water closets in the district, which was receiving prominent consideration at the close of the previous year, was finally settled, the decision of the Council being that loans be taken out as required to carry out the whole of the conversions.

The first loan of £4,000 was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health in March, and the work was commenced by direct labour the same month, and continued in a satisfactory manner, and at the close of the year conversions were being carried out at the approximate rate of 200 per month.

The scheme for the voluntary conversion of pan closets into water closets was also reviewed early in the year, and it was decided that any person who wished to have a conversion made from a pan closet to a water closet, instead of buying a new privy pan, or waiting for the operation of the general scheme, may have such conversion made on payment of £2 to the Council.

The following is a summary of progress made during the year by loan :—

Notices served	District				Conversions completed
982	South Bank	...	...	...	765
126	Grangetown	...	...	...	126
135	Eston	...	...	...	135
43	Normanby	...	...	...	43
<hr/>					<hr/>
1,286					1,069
<hr/>					<hr/>

The number of conversions carried out under the voluntary scheme on payment of £2 was 232, and were distributed as follows :—

South Bank	...	...	...	...	...	151
Grangetown	...	...	...	...	...	38
Eston	...	...	...	...	...	27
Normanby	...	...	...	...	...	16
						<hr/> 232 <hr/>

The approximate numbers of the different kinds of sanitary conveniences in the Eston Urban area at the end of 1923 are set out below :—

District					Pan Closets		Water Closets	
South Bank	...	...	...	...	1,125	...	1,984
Grangetown	...	...	...	...	1,100	...	552
Eston and Normanby		...	...	...	503	...	946
				TOTALS	...	2,728	...	3,482

The proportion of pan closets to water closets as shown is .78 pan closets to each water closet, as against 1.87 pan closets to each water closet at the end of the previous year.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

The work of scavenging and cleansing the area required more than the usual amount of supervision during the year, on account of the rapid progress made with the conversions. The latter half of the year was very difficult, as the rounds of both night soil men and day scavengers had to be constantly corrected and altered as progress was made, and as the night work diminished and day collections increased.

The financial aspect had my close attention, and costs were checked monthly, with the result that the estimates were not exceeded, and whilst the cost of night soil collection was substantially reduced, the costs of day scavenging were not increased in proportion.

The privy pans of the district were systematically inspected at regular intervals, and no difficulty was experienced in the provisions of renewals. With the decrease of this class of convenience, which has taken place mostly in the thickly populated areas, there was a great reduction of complaints of liquid flowing into the back streets, which has been the cause of much annoyance in past years.

The system of tips or dumps still continues to be our method of refuse disposal. The official tip rented by the Council covers half an acre of land, and in May contained approximately one thousand tons of refuse, but I am pleased to say that in the following month the whole of this accumulation was removed to land on the hill side and used by a farmer to assist in opening up a large area of strong land. The tip is now only used as a collecting station, and accumulations are removed at frequent intervals, as soon as the work provides sufficient employment for the Foden wagon for a day.

There are also six unofficial tips which are used and are situated on farm lands, no charge is made for the use of the tips or for the refuse taken there, although the great decrease in the amount of night soil in the refuse has depreciated the value as a manure.

Day refuse was not difficult to dispose of during the year owing to arrangements being made with various land owners to fill in ponds and various hollow land.

All privy pans are emptied twice each week in the night time, and household refuse is removed weekly during the day.

As there is no definite station for the reception of night soil and day refuse, it is difficult to record the exact number of loads collected during the year. Each cartman records the number of loads collected daily, and these vary considerably owing to the varying distances between collecting areas and the various tipping grounds.

The collection of night soil recorded was—No. of loads	...	7,968
„ „ house refuse „ „ „	...	5,252
Cost of night soil collection	... ..	£2,870
Cost of house refuse collection	... ..	£1,058
Average cost of night soil collection per load	... ..	7/2·4
„ „ house refuse „ „ „	... ..	5/9·8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All the cases of infectious diseases enumerated in the report of the Medical Officer of Health were visited, the premises thoroughly disinfected, and such steps taken as were necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

During the summer holidays all the elementary schools in the district were fumigated.

Special attention was directed against the spread of infection from Smallpox cases which occurred early in the year, the families were isolated and supplied with provisions, whilst the premises, clothing and bedding were thoroughly disinfected.

The following table gives particulars of houses and other buildings fumigated, as well as the disinfection of clothing and bedding, etc., by the steam disinfector :—

	Houses	Rooms	Schools and other Buildings	Lots of Bedding and Clothing Disinfected
Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis	362	... 474	... 33	... 692
Tuberculosis...	20	... 35	... —	... 135
Various	10	... 44	... —	... 52
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	392	... 553	... 33	... 879
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The inspection of Factories and Workshops in the District was carried out periodically throughout the year. The defects were chiefly of a minor nature, many of which were remedied on verbal representations being made to the owners or occupiers. Three notices were served for insufficient or defective sanitary accommodation, and two notices were served for cleansing, all of which were complied with.

The number of workshops on the register is 101. Particulars as to each trade carried on is set out below :—

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	..	29
Joiners, Cartwrights, Cabinet Makers, and Undertakers	...	...	...	14
Tailors, Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	13
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	18
Plumbers and Tinsmiths	...	...	...	7
Painters	...	...	...	6
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6
			<hr/>	
		TOTAL	... 101	
			<hr/>	

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The number of samples of food and drugs purchased for analysis was 56 ; of these 45 samples were taken under Section 13 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. One informal milk sample was taken for comparative purposes, but was not sent for analysis, 11 other informal samples of food were certified genuine.

Two samples of water were taken from pumps in connection with wells, and in each case the analyst certified the waters to be free from contamination.

Details of the samples taken with the results of the analyses are set out below :—

Nature of Sample	Taken under Sec. 13, 1875 Act.		Informal		Genuine		Adulterated	
*New Milk	45	...	1	...	38	...	5
Butter	—	...	1	...	1	...	—
Margarine	—	...	1	...	1	...	—
Lard	—	...	1	...	1	...	—
Coffee	—	...	1	...	1	...	—
Tinned Peas	—	...	1	...	1	...	—
Cream of Tartar	—	...	2	...	2	...	—
Bi-carbonate of Soda	—	...	2	...	2	...	—
Vinegar	—	...	2	...	2	...	—
TOTAL		45	...	12	...	49	...	5

*Two samples of new milk were broken in transit on rail.

The adulterations in the five samples, which were all of new milk, were :—

- No. 1. New Milk showing 5·0 per cent. deficient in fat.
- No. 2. New milk showing 12·9 per cent. deficient in fat.
- No. 3. New milk showing 4·7 per cent. deficient in fat.
- No. 4. New milk showing 3·4 per cent. deficient in fat.
- No. 5. New milk showing 9·25 per cent. deficient in fat.

Each of the above adulterations were reported to the Council. In the cases of Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 the Clerk was instructed to write warning letters to the Vendors.

The adulterated sample No. 2 was taken after a warning letter had been sent to the vendor of No. 1 adulterated sample. As this was the second sample showing a deficiency in fat within a short period, the Council decided to take legal proceedings, which resulted in the vendor being fined £5.

Excluding the adulterated samples as above described, the quality of milk taken for analysis was very good, the average of fats and non-fatty solids being :—

Non-fatty Solids	...	...	...	...	9·11 per cent.
Fat	...	...	...	...	3·81 „

The standard of new milk set up in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, is :—

Non-Fatty Solids	...	...	...	...	8·5 per cent.
Fat	...	...	...	...	3·00 „

Two samples of water were taken from pumps in connection with wells, and in each case the analyst certified the water to be free from sewage contamination and sediment very minute, adding that the waters were of a hard nature, and that if a softer supply could be readily obtained it might be desirable to discontinue the use of this water. No further steps had been taken when the year closed.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

There were no cases of pollution of streams which flow through the district. Workmen periodically remove obstructions which have been thrown in by children.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of slaughter houses in the district at the end of the year was 12.

All slaughter-houses are regularly visited, and generally speaking are conducted in a satisfactory manner. Any verbal request with respect to lime washing, repairs, or the removal of manure and offals were attended to without any undue delay.

From the following statement it will be seen that there is a shortage of slaughter-houses in the District :—

District			Number of English Meat Butchers		Slaughter Houses.		
					Yearly Licence		Not Licensed
South Bank	...	...	12	...	2	...	3
Normanby	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Eston	...	...	5	...	3	...	—
Grangetown	...	...	4	...	3	...	—
TOTAL			22	...	8	...	4*

*These slaughter-houses are not licensed, the owners contending that they are registered, a question which will have to be settled by taking proceedings against these people to prove that their premises are registered slaughter-houses.

*Co-operative Society's Branches are not included in the number of butchers, as their supplies are delivered from their central abbatoir outside our area.

The provision of a public Abattoir for our District, for which plans have been prepared, is still in abeyance owing to so many other urgent schemes being in hand. No definite site has yet been decided on. The position with regard to slaughter-houses in the District is very acute, and it is to be hoped that the provision of the Abattoir will receive consideration in the near future.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD.

During the year this important branch of the work received my most careful attention, necessitating approximately 1,728 visits to slaughter-houses, warehouses and other places where food is stored, prepared, or exposed for sale. As far as possible the meat is inspected at the time of slaughtering, which under present conditions is very difficult. The slaughter-houses are spread over the whole of the District, and killing usually taken place at about the same times. In the warm weather the killing

often takes place in the cool of the evening, so that during the summer time there is a certain amount of night inspection, which is necessary so that all organs may be inspected before removal. The simultaneous slaughtering necessitates the visits to be made as quickly as possible. If the killing has just commenced when your Inspector arrives, he is delayed or has to make a return visit, otherwise the advantage of inspecting a carcase before any of the organs are removed from the slaughter house is lost, and any sign of disease may be removed. The amount of meat, etc., found to be diseased or unsound, which was destroyed during the year is set out below :—

Articles surrendered						Approximate lbs. weight
Beef :—						
Carcases or portions thereof	...	...	...	...	...	511
Heads ...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Lungs ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Livers ...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Kidneys ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Stomachs and Intestines ...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Veal ...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Pork ...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Rabbits ...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Fruit and Vegetables :—						
Tomatoes ...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Plums ...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Pears ...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Apples ...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Gooseberries ...	...	...	...	...	...	728
Cabbage and Cauliflower ...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Food :—						
Butter ...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Curds ...	...	...	...	...	...	14
TOTAL ...						2,206

The above quantities of articles surrendered and destroyed is the lowest for several years past, and is mainly due to the superior quality of the animals slaughtered. During the past year the quality of the meat offered for sale has shown a considerable improvement.

It is a pleasure to me to be able to record the harmonious relations which continues to exist between the butchers of the District and myself in the exercise of my duties in connection with meat inspection.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are only two common lodging houses in the District. The accommodation has always been well above the requirements, consequently there is no fear of overcrowding.

Both lodging houses are periodically visited to see that the Bye-laws are being complied with. Verbal intimations are all that have been necessary for any complaints to be attended to. All floors are swept daily, and all rooms, landings and staircases scrubbed each week. The keepers appear to do their best to keep the houses in good order and free from vermin, the latter being very difficult in the summertime owing to the class of persons occupying the beds.

The conversion of the pan closets into water closets at the lodging houses was carried out during the year ; these are a much overdue improvement over the pan closets previously in use. The conversions were carried out at both lodging houses, and at the Munby Hostel the urinal was reconstructed and the washing accommodation re-modelled.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades, as enumerated in the Public Health Acts, are practically negligible in our District, and no Bye-laws are in force which extends the meaning of offensive to other trades.

Several of the butchers boil the tripes and clean the guts of the animals they kill in their slaughter-houses. No labour is solely employed in connection with offensive trades in the District.

The continued increase in the number of fried fish and chip dealers in the District had the prominent consideration of the Council, it being suggested that these businesses should be brought within the scope of offensive trades. The matter was fully discussed by the Council, and it was decided that the suggestion should not be adopted.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

The number of retail milk purveyors on the register at the close of the year was 44, and the number of wholesalers and producers for whom it is now necessary to keep a separate register and issue separate certificates was 20.

Each of the milkshops have been periodically visited. Many of the retailers only deal with a small quantity daily, the main business usually being mixed stores, confectionery, greengrocery, etc. In this class of store the milk is very easily contaminated with dust or smell from such articles as onions, smoked fish, etc.

In the previous year the Council adopted a good type of receptacle to prevent contamination, which consists of a detachable aluminium lid made to spring on to the top rim of a porcelain bowl. All persons selling milk in mixed stores are requested to provide the approved bowl. No objections to this have been made by the trade, which gives the impression that those concerned wish to supply as clean milk as possible.

The wholesalers' and producers' premises in the District have been inspected, many of the premises are not all that one could desire from a structural point of view, but very little complaint can be made regarding cleanliness.

Special visits were made to cowsheds at the time of turning the cattle out to grass, and at the season for taking them in for the winter. Where limewashing was required, the occupiers were informed at the time of visit or notice was served in cases of delay. No difficulty was experienced in getting any minor repairs attended to. One cowshed was re-constructed on up to date lines during the year, and plans had been prepared for the building of a new cowshed at another farm in the area.

Several informal notices served on the occupiers of dairies or cowsheds were complied with.

CONCLUSION.

Comparing this report with that of the previous year, it will be seen that the work of sanitary administration has continued to grow ; it also shows the multifarious duties which are carried on by the department, many of which have to be handled in a tactful manner to obtain the desired effect.

I would take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to the whole of the Councillors, Medical Officer of Health, and other Officials for the help I have received and the good feeling, which I reciprocate.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM LINSLEY,

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

